

4. (Amended) ~~A~~ The lens barrel according to ~~claims~~ claim 1, wherein said lens optical system is a taking optical system of an optical device.

*Amendments to the abstract:*

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a lens barrel in which all of a plurality of lens groups are attached to a leading cylindrical body, ~~whereas a~~ A movable lens group in the plurality of the lens groups is moved by a driving source incorporated in the leading cylindrical body, ~~whereby the~~ The lens barrel is less likely to be influenced by external forces and can be made smaller. The lens barrel ~~comprises~~ includes first, second, and third cylinders, and first, second, and third lens groups attached to the third cylinder, which is ~~expanded earliest~~ extended first among the first, second, and third cylinders. The first and third lens groups are fixed to the third cylinder, ~~whereas and~~ and the second lens group is disposed between the first and third lens groups ~~so as to be~~ and movable along the optical axis.